



Grant Development/Administration Grant Development/ Administration

Becoming FUSED: The Formation of Unified States in the Exchange of Data - Abstract

Law enforcement, at all levels, reengineered its intelligence strategies in the aftermath of 9/11. As such, states across the nation instituted Fusion Centers to serve as an information hub for terrorism/criminal intelligence. While successful, the Fusion Center concept is not without its drawbacks. With the rapid advancements of technology, today's criminal intelligence analyst is inundated with an overabundance of data. He/she must spend a considerable portion of the day sifting through various forms of information in order to make conclusions and identify patterns for analysis. To add to this dilemma, the intelligence analysts working within Fusion Centers do not communicate as effectively as they could. The primary conduit of inter-state information/intelligence sharing is through telephone or email contacts. While Fusion Center personnel admirably attempt to foster relationships between one another, it is clear that an innovative restructuring of their communication platform is needed in an effort to aid national counter-terrorism/criminal efforts.

The Midwestern States' Fusion Centers are demonstrating their commitment to homeland security and public safety by proposing to improve their information sharing capabilities with the establish-

Grant development and oversight are some of the responsibilities undertaken by PSAp staff. Team members were contacted to craft two grant submissions to the National Institute of Justice: a proposal to enhance and link information and intelligence sharing systems among the Nation's Midwestern Fusion Centers; and another to collect, share and distribute information/intelligence through technology to the alternative source/consumer.

Attached are narrative summaries of these grant submissions which resulted in a partial award to the Illinois Homeland Security Effort

ment of **FUSED** – Formation of Unified States in the Exchange of Data. With Illinois State Police as the lead implementing agency, FUSED will provide a seamless system to virtually link member centers and maximize intelligence gathering, analysis, and sharing. This will be accomplished through a series of strategies including: the establishment of a consortium of states; centralized procurement; project analysis outlining security safeguards, data specifications, and ownership; use of a standard language protocol; and performance review. The FUSED concept echoes recommendations outlined in the Department of Justice’s 2006 publication, *Fusion Center Guidelines*, and represents the first collaboration of its kind in the nation. If this proposal is accepted, FUSED will serve as a model for the linkage of other regional centers, which will ultimately lead to the establishment of a FUSED concept on a national level.

Ebb and Flow of the Information Tide: Illinois’ Edge - Abstract

After the cold war era and since 9/11, information intelligence sharing has a new face painted with a broader brush. The bristles of the brush are comprised of information “sources/consumers” not within the sphere of traditional law enforcement shared information. These new sources/consumers are disciplines of the public at-large, the private sector, fire service, public health, public works, corrections, emergency management and law enforcement field personnel etc., who in the past could not access data sources real time. They are known as “The Edge”. They should also be considered conduits for information flow to/from centralized centers known as either law enforcement intelligence or eventual fusion centers that are designed to coordinate the gathering, analysis and dissemination of law enforcement, public safety and terrorism information. The enterprise sys-

tem that will facilitate this sharing concept between the Edge and these centers is an integrated collection of technologies and operational processes that fuse information.

Today’s open architecture, wireless environment, voice stream/digital retrieval and the Edge require a system with the ability to collect, share, disseminate and exchange information actual time along with visual technologies. Over the grant-funded period of one year, an architecture strategy will be projected and system requirements will be competitively bid through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to develop a system with the federally obtained monies as well as technological equipment for the Illinois State Police, Zone Intelligence Officer program that will proffer collection, assess local/regional trends and provide field response.